

It's Smart To Be/Gallery Wise!

## THE WILLIAM ROCKHILL NELSON GALLERY OF ART

## AND ATKINS MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

N E W S F L A S H E S

December 1

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EXHIBITION OF VENETIAN PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PRINTS. The fourth anniversary of the opening of the Gallery occurs in December and for that month a special loan exhibition of Venetian Paintings, Drawings, and Prints has been assembled. The group has been collected by the Director and Harold Woodbury Parsons and has been made possible by the cooperation of the leading museums of the country, private collectors and dealers. It will open to the public on Sunday, November 23th.

The great school of painting in Venice which culminated in the sixteenth century with the work of Titian, Tintoretto, and Veronese passed almost into oblivion in the seventeenth century. The City of the Adriatic produced now only mediocre artists who were content to copy the greatness of Titian, and their work was marked by mannerisms and the exaggerations of the Baroque which was flourishing in Rome.

Due, however, to the impulse of three artists who settled there in the sixteen hundreds, the waning school of Venetian painting was revived and an impetus given that resulted in the renaissance of the eighteenth century under Tiepolo, Guardi, and Canaletto, the last great period of Italian art. The first of these was Domenico Fetti, a native of Rome, who painted small biblical scenes and parables with a touch of Dutch realism. He will be represented by "The Good Samaritan", lent by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and "Saint Stephen" lent by the Rochester Memorial Gallery, in which his sensitive brush work and his grayed tones are seen.

The second was Giovanni Lys, a native of the Netherlands, who had studied in Rome and who added to the virtuosity of a dashing brush stroke, a Baroque handling of composition. He will be represented by a masterly "Saint Jerome", lent by the Fogg Museum, which is the only painting by this artist known in America and which is a variation of the large altar piece in Venice. The third and perhaps the most important of all was Bernardo Strozzi, a Genoese by birth who had learned much from Rubens. He will be represented by a superb "Saint Catherine", lent by the Wadsworth Atheneum and formerly in the Italico Brass Collection. It is typical of his fine sense of colour, the very individual feminine beauty he always portrayed and the delicacy and refinement which marked the beginning of the rococo.

The influence of these three men was handed on to Venetian eighteenth century painting by Sebastiano Ricci and G. G. Piazzetta. Ricci will be represented by important altar pieces lent by the Detroit Institute of Art, Arnold Seligmann, Rey & Company and Dr. Paul Drey. Piazzetta, who is more typically Venetian, will be shown in "Portrait of a Lady", from the collection of Mrs. Edwin W. Shields "Beggar Boy" from the Chicago Art Institute, and "Saint Christopher" from the collection of Italico Brass and lent by Mr. James St. L. O'Toole.

The work of these artists formed a background for the superb decorations of Giovanni Battista Tiepolo who combined a great enthusiasm for the paintings of Veronese with the budding rococo art. He devoted his prodigious talents and virtuosity to great ceiling decorations and surpassingly beautiful wall compositions, in which we see his hauntingly exquisite feminine types and his very individual collar gamut of lemon yellows, orange, pale greens, violets, and blues. He will be represented by a sketch for a ceiling decoration, "The Allegory of the Poet Soderini" from the City Art Museum of St. Louis, "Head of an Old Man" from the Minneapolis Institute of Art, a late work from his Spanish period, "St. John Nepomucen" lent by M. Knoedler & Co., a fresco of angels heads lent by Salvatore Romano and the "Hagar and Ishmael" from the permanent collection, one of his few easel pieces. Tiepolo had one son who

carried on his traditions, Giovanni Domenico, who will be represented by a most beautiful and important "The Debarkation of Anthony and Cleopatra" lent by Brummer & Co.

Paralleling the great decoration of Tiepolo was a group of painters of architectural perspective, Venetian views and landscapes. They derived chiefly from the landscapes of Salvator Rosa transmitted through the very individual Alessandro Magnasco. The subdued palette, the intensely vital brush stroke and the fantastic imagination of Magnasco will be seen in "Monks at Supper", lent by the Chicago Art Institute, "David Dancing Before the Ark", a superb unfinished and moving canvas lent by Jacques Seligmann & Co., and the "Monk and Cavalier" from the permanent collection.

Francesco Guardi must be ranked second to Tiepolo in importance and more than any other artist he caught the opalescent colours of Venice, the ceaseless movement of her canals, the nervous energy of her gondoliers. He will be represented by a "View of the Piazzetta" lent by the Wadsworth Atheneum, a "Portrait of Principe Gradenigo" lent by the Springfield Museum, a superb "Venetian Scene" lent by Wildenstein & Co., and the "View of the Salute" from the permanent collection.

Sharing the honors with Guardi in this school of architectural views are Canaletto and his nephew, Bellotto, who are more factual and who traveled about Europe and recorded such cities as Rome, Dresden, and London. M. Knoedler & Co. have lent a very large and important "View of the Piazza" by Canaletto, in which we see that famous square as it was before Napoleon made certain changes and from the Wadsworth Atheneum will come a "View of the Pantheon", one of the great classical buildings in Rome. Bellotto will be represented by a "Ponte Vecchio", that charming old bridge in Florence which is still quite unchanged, lent by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and a "View of Dresden" from M. Knoedler & Co.

Quite unique are the small canvases of Pietro Longhi in which he records the life of the day in fascinating comments. From the Metropolitan Museum will come "The Kesting", from the Rhode Island School of Design a "Family Group" and from Arnold Seligmann Rey & Co. "Two Magistrates", all indicative of Longhi's keen observation. The Toledo Museum of Art will lend a religious painting "The Holy Family" by G. A. Guardi, the brother of the more famous Francesco. Other landscape and portrait painters such as Marieschi, Pittoni, and Zuccharelli will be represented by loans from Arnold Seligmann Rey & Co., and from the permanent collection.

A group of drawings from the permanent collection and lent by the Wadsworth Atheneum, Harold Woodbury Parsons, Esq., and Arnold Seligmann Rey Company and a series of prints by Canaletto lent by Robert B. Fizzell of this city will complete the anniversary exhibition.

MASTERPIECE OF THE MONTH: The beautiful tondo relief of the Madonna and Child by Pietro Lombardi will make a most fitting masterpiece for the Christmas month of December.

It has been installed in the Spanish-Italian Room since the opening of the Gallery, but is doubtful if its delicacy and refined charm has been appreciated. In the special lighting of the masterpiece room, the exquisite quality of the carving and the simple sincerity of the Mother and Child theme will be readily recognized and a complete enjoyment of it will be possible.

WEDNESDAY EVENING LECTURES: On Wednesday Evening, December 1st, Mr. Sickman will lecture on Gandharan Sculpture, that fascinating field in which the influences of the East and West mingle for a brief period that left its mark on later Buddhist sculpture.

Harold Woodbury Parsons, who assembled in part the loan exhibition for this month, will speak on Venetian Painting of the Eighteenth Century on Wednesday Evening, December 8th, at 8:00 P.M. This is the only formal lecture which will be given on the important anniversary exhibition and it will be illustrated by paintings from the group.

Roman sculpture, and especially its fine portraiture, will be the subject of Mr. Gardner's lecture on Wednesday Evening, December 15th. It is the last of the great classical period, and is important as a background for the later Italian Renaissance.

These lectures are all held in the Atkins Auditorium and there is no admission to the Gallery or the discussion.

The Gallery will be open on the Wednesday Evenings of December 22nd and 29th, but there will be no lecture.

KANSAS CITY CAMERA CLUB: Beginning December 1st and continuing through the month, Gallery XVI will be installed with an exhibition of photographs by members of the Kansas City Camera Club. There is an increasing interest in photography and full data on each print will be an important part of the exhibition.

Photographs by the following will be included: G. H. Broyles, Richard Bulkeley, Richard Crain, Seymour Cronk, Ray Gaffner, R. H. Groff, J. H. Hahn, Frank Maggard, Dick Millard, Alex Myers, Glenn Rider, H. M. Robinett, Joseph Sarvent, J. C. Turney, H. G. West, and K. C. Winstead.

ITALIAN PAINTINGS: Several Italian paintings which have not been seen for some time have been installed in Gallery III. From the permanent collection comes two small figure pieces by Sebastiano Conca and "Head of a Boy" by Gerolamo Forabosco. Exhibited for the first time is a "Portrait of Archbishop Guirini" which many authorities attribute to Titian. This has been lent to the Gallery for an indefinite period by Harry M. Evans, Esq., of Pasadena but formerly of Kansas City.

FRIENDS OF ART: The Annual Meeting of the Friends of Art will be held in the Atkins Auditorium on Friday Evening, December 10th at 8:00 P.M. At this time, the members will vote on the picture to be purchased for this year. The Selections Committee has secured six outstanding contemporary American paintings, and these will be on exhibition in Gallery XV after December 1st. At the Wednesday morning meeting of the Study Class on December 8th, Mr. Gardner will discuss these paintings and the artists.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend both meetings.

#### C A L E N D A R

Wed.,	Dec. 1,	8:00	- Lecture - Gandharan Sculpture - Mr. Sickman
Sun.,	"	5, 3:30	- Concert - Sponsored by Lois Black Hunt and Edna Forsythe
Wed.,	"	8, 11:00	- Friends of Art Study Class
Wed.,	"	8 8:00	- Lecture - Venetian Paintings of the 18th Cen. - Harold W. Parsons
Fri.,	"	10, 8:00	- Friends of Art Annual Meeting
Wed.,	"	15, 8:00	- Lecture - Roman Sculpture - Mr. Gardner
Sat.,	"	18, 10:00	- Marionette Play - "The Guadalupe Madonna"
Sun.,	"	19, 3:30	- Concert - Sponsored by Sigma Alpha Iota
Wed.,	"	22,	- Open during evening, but no lecture
Sat.,	"	25	- Closed all day on Christmas Day
Wed.,	"	29	- Open during evening, but no lecture
Sat.,	Jan. 1		- Closed all day New Year's Day

William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art  
Kansas City, Missouri

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